

SEP 26 2008

Application No. 10/615,844
Reply to Office Action of March 28, 2008

Docket No.: 3560-0131P

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Device for effecting radiation treatment of benign or malignant prostate hyperplasia in a prostate of a human male having a bladder with a base and a penis with an urethra having an urethral wall extending from the base of the bladder through the prostate, said device comprising:

a urethral probe adapted to be inserted within said urethra;

a catheter probe having an elongated body with a circumferential surface, a distal end and a proximal end, which catheter probe is adapted to be inserted in said urethral probe with its proximal end within the urethra towards the prostate;

said elongated body of said catheter probe having a longitudinal bore extending from said distal end towards at least one outlet opening present in said circumferential surface near said proximal end;

a catheter tube having a distal end and a proximal sharp end, which catheter tube is to be inserted with its proximal sharp end through said longitudinal bore of said elongated body, through said at least one of said outlet openings and through said urethral wall towards at least one desired location within the prostate to be treated;

said urethral probe being made of a material to be perforated by said proximal sharp end of said catheter tube at arbitrary positions relative to the prostate; and

means for delivering a certain pre-planned amount of radiation energy via said catheter tube near or at said at least one desired location within said prostate for effecting said radiation treatment, said catheter probe being movably accommodated within said urethral probe.

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2. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that said catheter probe is movable in at least one of longitudinal and rotational direction within said urethral probe.

3. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that said urethral probe consists of an elongated probe body having a distal end and a proximal end adapted to be inserted within said urethra, said elongated probe body being provided with a longitudinal urethral probe bore for accommodating said catheter probe.

4. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 3, characterized in that the inner dimensions of said longitudinal urethral probe bore are slightly larger than the outer dimensions of said catheter probe.

5. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that catheter probe drive means are present for moving said catheter probe in at least one of longitudinal and rotational direction within said urethral probe.

6. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that catheter tube drive means are present for moving said catheter tube in a longitudinal direction within said catheter probe.

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7. (Original) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that said catheter tube is a flexible tube having a proximal sharp end.

8. (Original) Device according to claim 7, characterized in that said means for delivering said radiation energy comprise at least one wire having a distal end and a proximal end; and at least one energy emitting source to be inserted by means of said proximal end of said wire through said catheter tube towards said location within the prostate to be treated.

9. (Original) Device according to claim 8, characterized in that said means for delivering said radiation energy further comprise means for inserting said at least one energy emitting source within said catheter tube.

10. (Original) Device according to claim 9, characterized in that said means for delivering said radiation energy furthermore comprise wire drive means for moving said wire together with said at least one energy emitting source through said catheter tube towards said location within the prostate to be treated.

11. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 3, characterized in that said elongated body of said urethral probe is made of a flexible material.

12. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 3, characterized in that said urethral probe is made of a partly rigid material.

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13. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 3, characterized in that said elongated body of said urethral probe is built as a grating of plurality of filaments.

14. (Original) Device according to claim 13, characterized in that said filaments are made of a rubber material or bioabsorbable material.

15. (Original) Device according to claim 13, characterized in that said filaments are made of a metal material.

16. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 15, characterized in that said grating of said plurality of metal filaments is provided with a rubber material coating.

17. (Original) Device according to claim 16, characterized in that said rubber material coating is made of polyurethane.

18. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 8, characterized in that the insertion and positioning of said catheter tube, a proximal needle, and said wire together with said at least one energy emitting source through said catheter probe towards said at least one desired location within the prostate to be treated is monitored and controlled by a computer program according to a planning information delivered by a treatment planning program using

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imaging information delivered by imaging means adapted to be positioned within the rectum of the human male.

19. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 18, characterized in that a catheter probe drive means for positioning said catheter probe within said urethral probe is controlled by said imaging means and at least one computer planning treatment system.

20. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 8, characterized in that said at least one energy emitting source is a radioactive source.

21. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 8, characterized in that said at least one energy emitting source is a high dose rate or pulse dose rate source.

22. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 8, characterized in that said at least one energy emitting source is an antenna of a variable length emitting radiowaves.